

REMARKS

Claims 24-31 are presented for examination in this application, of which Claims 24, 26, 28 and 30 are in independent form. Claims 1-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 24-31 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-5 and 11-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,909 (Parulski et al.).

Claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 11-14 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Parulski et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,260 (Anderson).

Claims 15-17 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Parulski et al. and Anderson, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,559,554 (Uekane et al.) and U.S. Patent 5,850,487 (Takane et al.).

First, the cancellation of Claims 1-23 renders the rejection of those claims moot.

As to the newly-added independent Claims 24, 26, 28, and 30, each claim recites superimposing a first character on an image to be displayed, and superimposing a second character on the image to be outputted from the outside and rotating the first

character according to a rotation of the image processing apparatus/the digital camera before the first character is superimposed on the image. Parulski et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to an electronic still camera having automatic orientation sensing and image correction. Anderson, as understood by Applicant, relates to positioning stamps in images captured with an image capture unit. Applicant submits, however, that nothing has been found in Parulski et al. or Anderson, when taken separately or in any proposed combination, that would teach or suggest superimposing a first character on an image to be displayed, and superimposing a second character on the image to be outputted from the outside and rotating the first character according to a rotation of the image processing apparatus/the digital camera before the first character is superimposed on the image and thus, at least for these reasons, independent Claims 24, 26, 28 and 30 are patentable over the art relied on in the Office Action.

The other claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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